

CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1925.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,975 acres
Population, 1921 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,650
Inhabited Houses, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,908
Average number of Persons per House, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.48

The District is large and scattered, embracing 49,975 acres, and being nearly fourteen miles from end to end. The greater part of the area is agricultural in character, and there are no trades carried on which are a nuisance or offensive.

There are no general hospitals in the area, but the Smallpox Hospital at Sedgebrook, and the Chailey Hospital at Chailey, both come in the district.

The former is under the management of a Joint Committee, on which Chailey Rural District Council is represented.

The latter is provided by the Chailey Rural District Council, and is reported on later.

STATISTICS.

Year.	Population Estimated.	NETT BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS.			
				Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1921	12,590	230	18.26	4	17.4	100	7.94
1922	12,650	202	15.9	18	89	140	11.1
1923	12,670	200	15.8	10	50	125	9.7
1924	12,780	170	13.3	6	35.3	116	9.1
1925	12,740	179	14.05	12	66	134	10.5
England and Wales			18.3		75		12.2

The causes of death were as follows :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis, Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brights Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Disease, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	134

Of the 179 births recorded, 8 were illegitimate, a rate of 4.5 per cent.

The number of births is slightly larger than last year, but still much below the average.

The so-called " Natural Increase " of Population, that is to say the excess of births over deaths for the year, was 45, being at the rate of 3.5 per 1,000.

The infantile mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of children under 1 year compared to 1,000 births is 66 against 35.3 last year, the figure for the country being 75. Only one child under 2 years of age died from diarrhoea. The credit for this must be largely attributed to the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and to the good influence of the District Nurses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

PUBLIC SUPPLY :—

The Mid-Sussex Co. supplies part of Wivelsfield.

The Burgess Hill Water Co. supplies parts of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston.

PRIVATE SUPPLY :—

Parts of Barcombe, Glynde, Ringmer, Beddingham and Firle.

The rest of the district is dependent on wells, and there has been no serious shortage.

No cases of lead poisoning have been reported, and no plumbo-solvent water detected.

RIVERS AND STREAMS :—

One complaint has been received of pollution, and this is under consideration. The various sewage outfalls seem to give a good effluent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE :—

The public systems at Ditchling, Newick and Ringmer, have worked without trouble.

The Firle system has got out of order and is being re-constructed.

The private scheme at Glynde continues satisfactory.

The combined drainage from the Isolation Hospital and the Workhouse has run without any hitch.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :—

I have nothing more to say on this subject than last year. Earth closets, pail closets and middens are scattered over the rural parts, but the number of the middens is getting less, many having been converted.

Cesspools are of course in use in a great number of places, but no nuisance requiring Statutory action has arisen, but many have had notices, not Statutory, and have been attended to.

SCAVENGING :—

Regular scavenging is carried out in Ditchling, but there does not appear to be any necessity at present to inaugurate fresh schemes in other parts.

Privies and cesspools are emptied by private arrangement, as required.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT :—

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has given me the following summary of the year's work :—

Number of Inspections of	Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
"	"	New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	250
"	"	Cowstalls and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	285
"	"	Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	31
"	"	Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	96
"	"	Factories, Workshops and Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	215
"	"	Sewage Outfalls	...	...	...	...	...	130
"	"	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	54
"	"	Drains and Sanitary Arrangements	...	...	...	...	...	153
"	"	New Drains tested with the water test	...	...	...	...	...	87
"	"	Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	56
"	"	Water Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	38
"	"	Grade "A" Milk Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	5
"	"	Sewage Outfall Effluent Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	33
"	"	" " " " Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	...	31
"	"	Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	21
"	"	Visits and Inspections under the Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	50
"	"	Petroleum and Carbide Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	54
"	"	Visits and Inspections under the Meat Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	51
		(Weight of Meat condemned : Beef	...	...	...	8,640 lbs.)		
		(" " " " " Pork	...	...	...	1,153 lbs.)		
Number of	Miscellaneous Visits, Re-visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	442
"	Letters and Notices written and sent out from the Office...	...	...	...	...	...	...	665
"	New Houses erected during the year...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
"	New Houses occupied during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
"	Houses in course of erection on December 31st, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
"	Houses erected with State assistance under the Housing Act, 1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

PREMISES WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS (OR REGULATIONS).

Bye-Laws dealing with Slaughterhouses and with Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops are in force, but houses let in lodgings are not dealt with, and there are no offensive trades carried on, and no underground rooms occupied.

SCHOOLS :—

There has been no complaint arising in any of the Schools.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY :—

No cases of tuberculous milk have been reported.
The 4 Dairies and 198 Cowstalls have been regularly inspected.

(b) MEAT :—

The butchers send notices regularly of their slaughterings and it will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's report that 96 visits have been paid. The amount of meat condemned has been due to the campaign against tuberculosis in animals which is being carried on, and a great number of animals suspected of tuberculosis have been slaughtered and the carcasses examined.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications received :—

							1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	—	—
Enteric...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	8
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	7
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	21
„ Other Forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	9

Notifications received from Schools are distinctly of value, especially in enabling non-notifiable diseases, such as Whooping Cough and Measles to become known.

The arrangements for cleansing verminous persons at the Isolation Hospital and Workhouse jointly have not been required.

Occasional deaths are recorded from tuberculosis, and no notification has been received. In these cases it is my practice to point out the omission to the doctor concerned, and every doctor practising in the neighbourhood has received a circular pointing out the importance of notifying all notifiable diseases including pneumonia and tuberculosis, and the result appears to be that nearly all cases have been notified. Of the 12 deaths of infants under one year one was of whooping cough, one diarrhoea and one tuberculosis. These appear to be the only three in which sanitary considerations could have entered.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force :—

- (a) The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (adopted 1921).
- (b) The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, so far as it is applicable to Rural Sanitary Districts. (Adopted 1921).

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) STAFF :—

The Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

(2) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION :—

The Joint Smallpox Hospital has not been required for use this year.
Chailey Isolation Hospital at South Common, which is under the administration of the Council, with the M.O.H. as Medical Superintendent, has had a very quiet year.

(3) BACTERIOLOGICAL AIDS, &C. :—

Every practitioner has been supplied with a sputum outfit, and with a swab for diphtheritic suspects, and there has been very little use made of them this year. This is done by arrangement with the Clinical Research Association, and is free of cost to the medical man or patient.

The services of the M.O.H. have been called upon occasionally for consultation on suspected cases of infectious disease, and are available when required.

A stock of antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and given to doctors on request.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Staff is made up of the Matron, Mrs. Fairbank, one nurse and one probationer, as far as technical work is concerned, with your M.O.H. as Superintendent.

			Chailey Rural District.	Other Districts.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7	7	14
Diphtheria	...	...	1	3	4

One of the cases admitted as scarlet fever was really a case of septic absorption from pus deep in the shoulder muscle. He was kept in a separate ward and operated upon. He did not catch scarlet fever and went out well.

The average number of days spent in hospital was $44\frac{1}{2}$ days for scarlet fever and $36\frac{1}{2}$ days for diphtheria.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the whole of the staff, from the Matron downwards, for the way in which they have carried on.

Everything has gone smoothly and uninterruptedly.

HOUSING.

The general condition of the Housing in the district is up to the average of a rural area.

No Statutory cases of overcrowding have come under our notice. The defects generally found to exist in houses have not been so serious as to necessitate a closing order, but in the near future as housing accommodation increases, steps will probably have to be taken to close some temporarily or permanently.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Population (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	12,740
(2)	General Death Rate (corrected for age and sex distribution)	...	...	...	...	...	9.9
(3)	Tuberculosis death rate	...	...	...	...	...	0.8
(4)	Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	66
(5)	Dwelling houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	2,908
(6)	Working-class dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,317
(7)	Working-class dwelling houses erected	...	...	...	...	...	42

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	104
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	35
(3)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	5
(4)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under (3), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	26

2.—Remedy of defects without service of formal Notice

...	...	...	...	...	...	13
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3. Action under Statutory powers :—

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, etc., Act, 1919 :—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	7
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—					
(a)	by Owners	...	...	...	...	7
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—					
(a)	by Owner	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owner	...	...	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

Closing Order made	...	...	...	...	...	1
Put in good order and re-opened	...	...	...	...	...	0

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Nil.

4.—Number of Houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	0
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5.—Staff engaged on Housing work :—

M.O.H., general duties.
Sanitary Inspector, general duties.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector, general duties.

W. A. DOW, M.D., D.P.H.

